

for agricultural production. Reserve Bank of India has issued detailed guidelines to commercial banks for simplifying and liberalising lending procedures.

A number of steps have been taken with a view to increase flow of credit to farmers particularly small and marginal farmers. The important ones are;

1. Disposal of loan applications upto Rs. 25,000/- within fortnight and those over Rs. 25,000/- within 8 to 9 weeks.
2. Delegation of appropriate sanctioning powers to the rural Branch Managers so that majority of loan applications are sanctioned at Branch level itself.
3. No collateral security should be taken by way of mortgage/charge of land or third party guarantee on crop loans upto Rs.10,000/- and term loans upto Rs. 10,000/- where moveable assets are created.
4. No margin is required for agricultural loans upto Rs.10,000/- for both short-term, medium/long term loans.
5. The interest on crop loans upto Rs. 7,500/- is kept low at 11.5% p.a.
6. Term loans upto Rs. 2 lakhs are provided at concessional rate.
7. In the case of crop loans availed of by small and marginal farmers, the interest debited is not to exceed the principal amount.
8. In the case of crop failure, amount due should be rescheduled over a period of 3 to 5 years and fresh loans should be given to farmers.

9. There should be no compounding of interest on current dues in agriculture sector.

10. Banks have been advised that for both short term and long term loans, the repayment schedule should coincide with the time when the cultivator has sold his produce and in funds.

Development of Hindustan Zinc Limited

3562. SHRI M.V.V.S. MURTHY: Will the Minister of MINES be pleased to state the steps proposed to be taken by the Government for the development of the Hindustan Zinc Limited in Visakhapatnam during 1992-93?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF MINES (SHRI BALRAM SINGH YADAV): Hindustan zinc Limited operates a smelter with an annual capacity of 22,000 tonnes of Lead and 30,000 tonnes of zinc at Visakhapatnam. Plans for increasing metal recovery and provide better environmental protection measures will be implemented during 1992-93.

[Translation]

Setting up of Bottling Plants

3563. SHRI RAM NARAIN BERWA: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of LPG bottling plants set up in various States during the last three years;

(b) the number of such plants set up in Rajasthan;

(c) if not, whether there is any proposal

to set up such plants; and

(d) if so, the number thereof and the time by which these are likely to be set up?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS AND THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE (SHRI S. KRISHAN KUMAR): (a) 26

(b) One

(c) and (d). Does not arise.

[English]

Kerosene to Sikkim

3564. SHRIMATI D. K. BHANDARI: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have received any request from the Government of Sikkim for increase in Kerosene quota and allocation of kerosene at a uniform rate throughout the year; and

(b) if so, the details thereof and the action taken by the Union Government thereon?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS AND THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE (SHRI S. KRISHAN KUMAR): (a) and (b). Requests have been received from Sikkim as well as from other State Governments for enhancement of SKO allocation. Uniform allocations to States/UTs including Sikkim have been made from November, 1991 onwards.

[Translation]

Survey of water-logged areas in Uttar Pradesh

3565. SHRI RAM PUJAN PATEL: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to State:

(a) whether the Union Government have conducted any survey of water-logged areas in Uttar Pradesh, especially in Phulpur constituency;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the follow-up action taken thereon?

THE MINISTER OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI VIDYACHARAN SHUKLA): (a) Yes Sir.

(b) i) Water logged area in Uttar Pradesh - 57684 sq. km.

ii) Water logged area in Phulpur constituency - 539.50 sq. km.

(c) Some of the important measures undertaken to combat the problem of water logging and drainage are:-

i) conjunctive use of surface and ground-water

ii) providing adequate drainage in irrigation systems

iii) lining of canals and field channels in vulnerable reaches.

iv) improved water management practices, and

v) making drainage as an integral part of irrigation in all new projects to be taken in future.